

Fulbright Statement

From the Herald Tribune Bureau
WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—
Following is the text of a statement issued today by Sen. J. William Fulbright, D., Ark., chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee:

From several sources in recent days there have been suggestions urging the Committee on Foreign Relations to report a resolution on Berlin.

The unfortunate absence of the Secretary of State from his office during this critical period understandably creates a desire on the part of everyone to be helpful. But it must be remembered that, under the Constitution, the President has the basic responsibility—and authority—for our foreign policy. No football team can expect to win a game with every man his own quarterback.

To force the President into a negotiating straitjacket or to overwhelm him—and the world—with unco-ordinated and perhaps conflicting advice would cause nothing but trouble. The Foreign Relations Committee is available to advise the President, but his is the primary responsibility. The debates which have already taken place have done much to clarify the situation.

It should also be noted that the President has stated clearly, forcefully, and authoritatively the policy of the United States in Berlin—that is, we will not give "one single inch" and if there is any shooting, it will be somebody else who starts it. We do not, of course, mean that we will not negotiate on any reasonable basis.